



U.S. Agency for
International
Development

Bureau for
Global Health

COUNTRY PROFILE

HIV/AIDS

ZAMBIA

At the end of 2001, more than 1.2 million people in Zambia were living with HIV/AIDS. The Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2001–2002 confirms that the current infection rate in Zambia is 16 percent among adults of reproductive age (17.8 percent for women, 12.9 percent for men).

Estimated Number of Adults and Children Living with HIV/AIDS	1,200,000
Total Population (2002)	9.8 million
Adult HIV Prevalence	16%
HIV-1 Seroprevalence in urban areas	23%
HIV Seroprevalence in rural areas	11%

Sources: Zambia Central Statistics Office; Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 2001–2002

HIV/AIDS is having a major impact on the health status of the population. The rate of population growth declined from 3.5 percent to about 2.6 percent, with increases in mortality as a result of AIDS and related diseases playing a key role. Recent population surveys have documented a decline in infant and child mortality by 15 percent between 1996 and 2002; however, the total number of orphans was estimated in 2001 at 874,000. About 65 percent of these children are thought to have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS-related causes.

Despite the hardship caused by HIV/AIDS, in some places and among some population subgroups, efforts to stem the spread of infection are working. Behavior surveys show a delay in onset of sexual activity by male and female youth, and a decline in the proportion of adults aged 15–49 who engage in sexual activity with someone other than a regular partner. Moreover, according to the same behavior surveys conducted in 1998 and 2000, condom use increased among persons who engage in sexual activity with a nonregular partner.

National Response

The Zambian government developed a strategic plan for addressing HIV/AIDS as early as the mid-1980s. The current National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework, finalized in 2000, covers the period 2000–2004. Its aim is to reduce the rate of new infections and to mitigate the effects of the epidemic by working in partnership with all ministries, nongovernmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. The National AIDS Bill, passed by Parliament in December 2002, formally established the National AIDS Council and the AIDS Secretariat.

The National AIDS Council, whose members include representatives from government ministries, civil society, and donors, provides national leadership, coordination, policy guidance, and resource mobilization for the HIV/AIDS effort. Service delivery is the responsibility of the Central Board of Health; however, planning, financing, and management of HIV/AIDS and other health



Map of Zambia: PCL Map Collection, University of Texas

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services are largely delegated to the districts. In April 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria awarded Zambia \$92 million over a five-year period for HIV/AIDS activities.

USAID Support

USAID has identified Zambia as one of four countries in the world to be the focus of a rapid response for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support efforts. USAID supports the work of the National AIDS Council, the Central Board of Health, and the Department of Child Affairs in the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Child Development. USAID supports Zambia's integrated approach to health care, acting as a catalyst for developing quality practices that can be scaled up, and improving the capacity of the health system. At the district level, USAID works through the Zambia Integrated Health Programme, which addresses HIV/AIDS in the context of the full range of health concerns, including malaria, reproductive health, and child health and nutrition.

USAID is the largest HIV/AIDS donor in Zambia, providing \$25.5 million toward the fight against HIV/AIDS in 2003. In 2003, USAID/Zambia formulated a new seven-year HIV/AIDS strategy for the 2004–2010 period that articulates an expanded commitment to multisectoral HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation. The strategy gives particular attention to prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among at-risk groups.

Programs for youth and high-risk groups

USAID support has helped pioneer several highly effective educational efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission. A youth mass media campaign, HEART, has produced a series of television ads and an award-winning music video. A prevention and control program targeting truck drivers and sex workers at six border sites is being scaled up to include other activities.

Condom social marketing

USAID has supported a strong social marketing program for condoms for more than a decade. Sales of socially marketed condoms rose from 5.3 million in 1998 to 10.1 million in 2002, averaging a 24 percent increase each year for three years. Sales of female condoms grew to more than 250,000 in 2002. Condom social marketing continues to expand to reach an increasing number of clients in high-risk settings in border towns.

Workplace HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs

A workplace initiative called FaceAIDS provides information and education on HIV/AIDS and other issues in workplace settings, thus helping spread information to communities via the workers' families. First introduced in Lusaka and in the Copperbelt Region, the initiative is now being scaled up to large and small businesses throughout Zambia. Working with Zambia Health Education Communication Trust, USAID/Zambia is expanding its HIV/AIDS in the workplace program to private firms. With support from Boston University, HIV/AIDS impact assessments are being carried out in the health, agricultural, judiciary, and tourism sectors.

Stigma and discrimination

High levels of social stigma and limited access to HIV care and treatment are barriers to participation in voluntary counseling and testing services. Through the International Center for Research on Women, Kara Counselling, and partners, USAID provides support to operational research on social stigma and to the development of a tool kit for organizations to address these issues. Through a REACH grant to Kara Counselling and Trust, USAID will support stigma reduction activities in two communities of Lusaka. This pilot program will work to sensitize both medical practitioners and community members to the damaging effects of stigma and the barriers it creates to HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Voluntary counseling and testing

The Demographic and Health Survey 2001–2002 documented that only 14 percent of adults have been counseled, tested, and know their HIV serostatus. During the past two years, USAID, in partnership with the development agencies of Japan and Norway, has supported the rapid development of integrated voluntary counseling and testing centers throughout

Zambia; by mid-2003, 103 sites were operating. USAID/Zambia supports the training and placement of additional counselors by collaborating with Kara Counselling, Churches Health Association of Zambia, and Chainama College.

A national voluntary counseling and testing database has been developed and is now being pilot-tested. Training in the use of the national reporting system and database is ongoing in 2003. Discussions are taking place between government and other stakeholders to integrate prevention of mother-to-child transmission indicators in the existing voluntary counseling and testing database.

HIV/AIDS prevention in the military

USAID/Zambia has supported the inclusion of police officers in all district and provincial HIV/AIDS training programs. Police units throughout Zambia are important members of each district's multisectoral HIV/AIDS prevention program under the National AIDS Council.

Care and support

Through a REACH grant to Project Concern International, USAID is supporting the scale-up of a home-based care organization in Lusaka that offers services to people living with AIDS or tuberculosis, and to orphans and vulnerable children. Project Concern covers the entire population in eight target compounds and is also working to replicate its success within other home-based care organizations.

The USAID/Zambia is about to enter into an agreement with a large Zambian nongovernmental organization to commence a new care and support program using a community home-based care model. Youth in selected districts are being trained.

Mother-to-child transmission

Zambia is one of 14 countries to receive funds through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. USAID has provided financial and technical support through the Linkages Project and the University of Alabama's Call to Action program. USAID and UNICEF participate in the National Technical Working Group on prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Stemming the transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their newborn children is an important national goal, as an estimated 50,000 to 85,000 infants are born to HIV-positive women. Transmission from mother to child is estimated at 30 percent.

The goal of the national prevention of mother-to-child transmission expansion plan is to deliver health services that aim to prevent mother-to-child transmission in all nine provinces and eventually in 72 districts, by 2005. One mother-to-child-transmission plus site is currently being piloted in Lusaka.

Antiretroviral drug pilot program

During late 2003, the Government of Zambia will evaluate pilot experiences prior to rolling out a national scale-up. USAID supports the Central Board of Health to oversee and manage patient drug regimens and to offer counseling and testing. Clients who are able to contribute to the cost of treatment share the cost of their drugs. Resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will provide additional support for HIV/AIDS treatment.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS

USAID is actively engaged in efforts to create economic safety nets and provide psychosocial and community support for children and families hardest hit by the epidemic. USAID/Zambia works in partnership with UNICEF and Zambia's Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Child Development. The SCOPE-OVC program works with nongovernmental, faith-based, and community-based organizations that care for orphans and vulnerable children. During 2002, SCOPE provided services to nearly 140,000 children.

People living with HIV/AIDS

USAID works closely with the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+). NZP+ support groups are composed of people living with HIV/AIDS who come together to form anti-AIDS clubs and to promote HIV/AIDS education, voluntary counseling and testing, and positive living through behavior change, home-based care, and activities and training that can improve the livelihoods of members. Through the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, USAID also provides extensive technical support to increase the involvement of persons living with HIV/AIDS in care and support, and prevention activities. The POLICY Project works with NZP+ to expand the national understanding HIV/AIDS and human rights.

For More Information

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USAID HIV/AIDS Website, Zambia:
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For more information, see http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids or www.synergyaids.com.

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